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FIRST CEMETERY RECORDS,
LYME, N.H.

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First Cemetery Records

Lyme, N.H.

Copied by Preston H. A. Claflin

Kindness of Miss Lucy King of Lyme, who is doing such useful work on the records of the old families in Lyme

This copy typed by Mrs. George Rowell
Concord, N.H., 1949

gift of Lucy King
1949

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Copies of the Inscriptions on the gravestones in the first Lyme burying ground on the river road
April-Nov.1884
by
Preston H.A.Claflin ,

Lyme,N.H.

The old burying ground,the first place set apart for the dead in Lyme is situated upon high ground to the left of the river road as you ascend the hill going south from Grant brook bridge.

Though it containsnthe bones of many whp toiled and died in making habitable our beautiful town and some even whose great grand children are of our citizens today,it has been allowed to become desolate and large trees have grown upon some of the graves,the memorial headstones are broken,the inscriptions obliterated;the fence which should surround the place is entirely gone and it is simply a pasture.

Knowing that the rain and frosts every year destroy some of the little that remainsto remind us of those who were laid to rest here,we have copied the inscriptions as far as legible,thinking some future seeker after knowledge might possibly be benifited thereby

The earliest inscription to be found upon any stone remaining there in Nov.1884 was asfollows---

1. In memory of Mis Elizabeth daughter of Capt.John Sloan and Mrs Elizabeth Sloan,who d March ye 16th 1766 in ye 9th year of her age

Nothing definite can now be known of any earlier burial in this town and if there were any such they were probably few and but little antecedent to this for according to all published accounts"Lyme was settled May 20,1764 by John,William and Daniel Sloan"and this death occurred oneyear,nine months and 24 days after the first permanent settler set foot within the township
Note 1A

2.In Memory of Abdon,son of Lieut,Benjamin and Mrs.Sarah Grant, died July 25th 1777 in his 4th year
Note 2 AB

3. -------ory of Mr. ------ Nelson, ied Oct.--- 1781 in ye 82 year of his age
Note 3A

4, In M ------ of Mr. ----- ------of Mr.Benjamin Grant died NovR.15th 1784 in her 71st year Note 4A

5.In Memory of Miriam and Esther,Grant,daughters to Mr.Peters Grant and Mrs.Anna,his wife,died)one)Nov.17,the other 21st,1784 ae 6 mos and 15 days

6.In Memory of Mrs.Margaret,widow of Mr.William Nelson,whomdied Mar.5,1785 ae 80 years (Widow Nelson)

7.In Memory of Mrs.Ruth,late consort of Mr.Zechariak Jenks,with an infant daughter,died Oct.29,1785 in the 30th year of her age
Note 7AB

8.In memory of Mr.David Slone,who died May 18,1786 in the 47th year of his age Note 8A

9.In Memory of Mrs.Elizabeth Sloan,who departed this life Feb.11,1787 in the 93rd year of her age
Note 9A

10.The Honorable,Colonel Samuel Gilbert Esq. (Footstone)
Note 10A

11.Footstone --r
typhose
Skinner See Note 11A

12.(Footstone)Mr.James Bell

13. " (Mr.William Sloan Note 13A
William Sloan,father of John,William and Daniel--- The following is to be found in Essex In.Hist.Coll,Vol.67,p 206 Immigrants to N.E.. Sloan,William of Rutland ,Mass from Ireland 1729;he and his wife were church members in Rutland. Child--Sarah died young (Lucy King)

14.(Footstone)Capt.Charles Nelson

15.(Footstone)Rufus Nelson

Notes on the foregoing inscriptions

Those spaces where the stones were so cracked abd scaled of that the inscriptions were illegible are indicated by -----

1A.The inscription upon the gravestone of John Sloan and his wife in the burying ground at Lyme Plain is as follows

John Sloan
died June 1824 ae 96
Esther Spencer,wife of John Sloan
died Dec.1828 ae 96
They were natives of Palmer,Mass and were the first settlers of this town

Comparing inscription 1 with this a discrepancy is noted--viz that the Capt.John S;oan of insc.1 and John Sloan of Above must have been different persons or there must have been an error in giving his wife's name as"Esther"upon the later monument which was erected years after her death;or the Miss Elizabeth of inscription must have been a child of a earlier marriage and her mother Elizabeth may have died before Lyme was settled.I think one of the latter suppositions is correct
(Error in the inscription Elizabeth was the child of John and Esther(Spencer) Sloan. Lucy King)

2A Lt.Benjamin Grant was the son of Benjamin Grant who built the first gristmill in Lyme.He married Sarah Sloan and had tow sons Abdon b 1774 and Alanson b 1775 in June.He jpined the patriot forces in the Revolution and was in the army which invaded Canada;was sick there with small pox and when convalescent was murdered with poison,acc.to the best available information

2B.Abdon Grant with his mother lived with Benjamin Sr,while her husband was away and Abdon,while at play in his grandfather's mill,fell into the curb upon the rapidly revolving millstone and was killed instantly

3AThe footstones 14,15 and I believe 14 belongs to Headstone No.3

Note 3A.Nelson Descendants say inscription should read
In Memory of Mr.William Nelson

No.14(Footstone)Charles Nelson was the son of William and Margaret(Campbell)Nelson.Officer in Allen's Green Mt.Boys during the Rev.

Note 4A,The Christian Name of Mrs.Benjamin Grant was Anna or Miriam;which I.am not able to say
(Anna Wood Hunt Grant. L.K)

7A.Those portions of Insc.& which are italicised are from the Gen-ealogy of Humphrey Turner with which the fragmentery insc. is found to correspond

7B,Before her marriage she was Ruth Jackson,b Woodstock,Conn. Feb.27,1755.She died in giving birth to a daughter which died the same day.
Zechariah Jenks afterwards married Sarah Tyler who was born in Henniker,N.H.and by both wives had 20 children

8A.Undoubtedly one of the Sloan brothers who settled in Lyme

9A.Probably the mother of the brothers Sloan who came a widow to Lyme and spent her declining years in the homes of her sons

10A.Not a Letter remains upon the headstone of this grave,but from all sources I learn that he was the progenitor of the original Gilbert Family in Lyme.He,according to my informant, B.F.Gilbert did not come to Lyme as a settler but with his son Thomas to assist him in making a settlement after which he designed to return to his home in Hebron,Conn,where other sons are buried.We find his name in the Manual of the Cong.Chh.of Lyme 1771 as one of the Charter Members ,1st Deacon and Ruling Elder
From Lord's Hist.of Dartmouth College,Hanover,N.J.p 327
Col.Samuel Gilbert was from Hebron,Conn.He was an intimate friend of Wheelock and had beennhis companion in the town which located the College at Hanover.He had proprietory rights in Lyme and Thither removed from Hebron in 1773,July,on the solicitation of Dr.Wheelock,who obtained for him in advance as an inducement,the Governor's promise of this appointment. He died at Lme,Oct.16,1774
Hist.of Tolland Co.,Conn pp 140,332

11A.The name is clearly that of a male,but no one seems able to complete it satis factorily or say who he was ,but he was probably related tojoseph Skinner(Dea.)who was the 2nd deacon and Ruling Elder(Cong.Ch.Manual)
(She was his wife says Dr.Frost named Tryphosa) LK

13A.It appears that the brothers,John,William and Daniel Sloan who settled in Lyme.William and Daniel died before 1790 as noneof the gravestones in the old cemetery bear a later date,the subsequent interments being made in the new ground on the Plains

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